

# City of Fort Lauderdale

*City Hall  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
www.fortlauderdale.gov*



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019**

**11:30 AM**

**Joint Workshop with Budget Advisory Board**

**City Commission Conference Room**

### **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP**

***FORT LAUDERDALE CITY COMMISSION***

***DEAN J. TRANTALIS Mayor - Commissioner  
BEN SORENSEN Vice Mayor - Commissioner - District IV  
HEATHER MORAITIS Commissioner - District I  
STEVEN GLASSMAN Commissioner - District II  
ROBERT L. McKINZIE Commissioner - District III***

***CHRIS LAGERBLOOM, City Manager  
JOHN HERBST, City Auditor  
JEFFREY A. MODARELLI, City Clerk  
ALAIN E. BOILEAU, City Attorney***

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Trantalis called the Joint Workshop with the Budget Advisory Board (BAB) to order at 11:50 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioner Heather Moraitis, Commissioner Steven Glassman, Commissioner Robert L. McKinzie (arrived at 11:56 a.m.), Vice Mayor Ben Sorensen, and Mayor Dean J. Trantalis

**Budget Advisory Board (BAB) Members Present:** Chair Brian Donaldson, William Goetz , Jeff Lowe, Gregg McKee, and Christopher Williams

**Not Present:** Vice Chair David Orshefsky, Eric Metz, and Johnnie Smith

**QUORUM ESTABLISHED**

**Also Present:** City Manager Chris Lagerbloom, City Clerk Jeffrey A. Modarelli, Interim Assistant City Manager Rhoda Mae Kerr, Interim Assistant City Manager Linda Logan-Short, City Attorney Alain Boileau, and City Auditor John Herbst

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS****BUS-1** [19-0189](#)

## Budget Advisory Board's Role in the Budget Process

Mayor Trantalis discussed setting the agenda for the budget process. Chair Brian Donaldson commented on the Budget Advisory Board's (BAB) new membership, two additional open positions, the budget process timeline and proposed improvements. Recommendations for improving the budget process include: 1) addressing items that impact the budget, i.e., the phasing out of Return on Investment (ROI); 2) assigning minimum and maximum parameter amounts for top Commission priorities as discussed at the Commission Goal Setting Session; and 3) the Commission's expectations of the BAB regarding the level of detail.

Mayor Trantalis commented on the Commission's commitment to reduce the ROI to zero by phasing it out over four years. Staff will work with the BAB to illustrate ways to achieve this goal in addition to determining

efficiencies and funding sources for Commission priorities. Mayor Trantalis commented on the expertise and talent of the BAB, confirming that the BAB should be detail focused. The Commission requests the BAB to guide them on priorities identified in the Commission's Goal Setting Session. Mayor Trantalis discussed his view of the budget process and funding obligations.

Commissioner Glassman noted the value of the BAB's Departmental Meeting Reports following its meetings with Staff. He also commented on the importance of the BAB's rationale for support and justification of departmental budget increases.

Commissioner Moraitis commented that the Commission and the BAB would have a clear understanding of available funding following voter decisions on bond items included on the March 12, 2019 ballot.

Commissioner Moraitis commented on the topic of ROI remaining in the Water and Sewer Fund. In response to Commissioner Moraitis' question, City Manager Chris Lagerbloom discussed how other municipalities address the topic of ROI. He confirmed there is no funding from the General Fund for Water and Sewer projects. Mayor Trantalis confirmed Enterprise Funds must remain allocated for their respective functions. In response to Chair Donaldson, Mayor Trantalis explained the Commission's decision regarding phasing out the ROI over four years, \$5,000,000 each year, confirming that three years remain.

Vice Mayor Sorensen concurred with previous comments regarding the BAB working with Staff during the budget process to realize Commission priorities. He suggested the BAB come back to the Commission with options and recommendations to achieve budget goals, including both pros and cons.

Board Member Gregg McKee discussed ROI, the prior program in place and payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT), expounding on details. He commented on details regarding the history and purpose of ROI and understanding current water and sewer needs. Mayor Trantalis confirmed his understanding from Staff that the City is ahead of schedule for Consent Order infrastructure items and is moving forward to meet infrastructure needs. Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on decisions regarding the future role of the Infrastructure Task Force Advisory Committee (ITFC). He recommended when these details have been addressed, the BAB and ITFC should meet jointly to align infrastructure needs and goals with the budget.

Commissioner Moraitis asked how other municipalities manage ROI,

recommending an analysis for comparison. City Manager Lagerbloom commented on input from the City's consultant, Stantec. Further comment and discussion ensued.

**BUS-2** [19-0190](#)

## Preliminary Direction Regarding Strategic Reductions

City Manager Lagerbloom requested preliminary direction from the Commission regarding strategic budget reductions for guide Staff in the building of the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY 2019) Budget. This will ensure that budget reductions are consistent with Commission policy.

**BUS-3** [19-0191](#)

## FY 2019 Budget Advisory Board Workplan

Mayor Trantalis concurred with recommendations brought forth by Vice Mayor Sorensen and previous comments. The BAB and the ITFC will have a joint meeting followed by BAB meetings with Staff to coordinate an initial outline of Commission priorities for the FY 2019 Budget Advisory Board Workplan (Budget Workplan).

City Manager Lagerbloom reviewed the Budget Workplan coordinated with Chair Donaldson and Budget Director Laura Reece. He commented on the need for the BAB to begin departmental meetings with Staff early in this process followed by a Workshop for Commission review.

Chair Donaldson reviewed the Budget Workflow Plan. He confirmed upcoming independent BAB meetings and meetings with Staff to address Commission priorities and build the Budget.

***A copy of the BAB Workflow Plan is attached to these minutes.***

Chair Donaldson expounded on the BAB and the Commission working with proactive information and options regarding budget items, citing examples. City Manager Lagerbloom and Staff will focus on strategic reductions. The BAB will focus on top priorities and secondary priorities. Further comment and discussion ensued. Mayor Trantalis noted that the topic of Affordable Housing could be a policy rather than a budget item, citing examples regarding City-owned properties. Further comment and discussion ensued.

Vice Mayor Sorensen commented on budgeting for homelessness and working with Staff to address this primarily through Broward County's Homelessness Initiative. He noted that bonds are funding the Stormwater Master Plan and utility infrastructure. Vice Mayor Sorensen reviewed and expounded on Commission priorities, both primary and secondary.

Chair Donaldson noted a BAB meeting following the March 12, 2019 ballot, confirming that outcomes of the bond initiatives will impact budget related decisions. Mayor Trantalis commented on the ability for the Commission to update policy regarding building guidelines for items such as streetscape improvements. These could be incorporated into Master Plans to alleviate costs. Further comment and discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Glassman's question regarding the scheduling of Budget Meetings in September 2019, Budget Director Reece explained the September scheduling is determined based upon Broward County and the Broward County School Board's September Budget Meetings, expounding on aspects of the budget process timeline and related details.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Trantalis adjourned the Joint Workshop with the Budget Advisory Board at 12:30 p.m.